

Western Illinois University

Campus Tree Care Plan

I. Western Illinois University establishes the Campus Tree Care Plan under authority of the University's Facilities Management Department.

II. The purpose of the Campus Tree Care Plan is to promote and maintain a safe, attractive campus urban forest through:

- Identification of best management practices in the maintenance and care of campus trees
- Protection strategies for campus trees impacted by campus construction and development
- Management of tree removal and replacement goals to achieve a desirable replacement ratio over time
- Articulation of campus tree programs with the University's overall educational mission
- Promotion and support of the GIS campus tree inventory

III. The initial Campus Tree Advisory Committee is composed of:

- Josh Arthurs, Student Representative
- Tara Beal, Facilities Management, Landscape Maintenance Superintendent
- George Beckman, Facilities Management, Deputy Director Facilities Planning and Construction
- Paul Blome, School of Agriculture, Arboriculture Instructor
- Staci Buster, Student Representative
- Amanda Green, Facilities Management, Sustainability Coordinator
- Tim Howe, City of Macomb, Forester
- Cody Huffman, Student Representative
- Paul Hughes, Tree Surgeon, Facilities Management
- Carina Kapraun, Facilities Management, Construction Project Coordinator
- Marietta Loehrlein, School of Agriculture, Horticulture Instructor
- Gloria Lynn, Student Representative
- Mindy Pheiffer, Recreation Parks and Tourism Administration, Horn Field Campus
- Eric Reed, Facilities Management, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor
- Eric Ribbens, Department of Biology, Botany Instructor
- Tim Schroll, Geography, GIS Center
- Chad Sperry, Geography, Director Geographical Information Systems Center
- Morris Vos, City of Macomb, Tree Board Chair
- Billy Walker, Student Representative

Roles of Representatives

Committee members ordinarily serve for a period of one calendar year with a renewal option, except that student representatives have a semester term with renewal option. Committee members participate in quarterly meetings and actively support the Campus Tree Care Plan.

IV. Campus Tree Care Policies

Plant Selection

Plant species to be used on the WIU campuses include species that are adaptable to our climate and soils. Special attention is given to Illinois native tree species as well as to species diversity for arboricultural and educational goals. An appropriate plant shall be selected according to the characteristics of a given site. Trees procured for campus must be pre-selected for quality and tagged by a qualified representative of WIU Landscape Maintenance Department.

Tree Care

For campus tree plantings, the University follows ANSI A300 Planting Standards and best practices regarding site selection, planting procedures, backfilling, mulching, and the like. Special care is to be taken to ensure best practices where building and infrastructure construction is involved. Pruning across campus is directed by the WIU Tree Surgeon, a position currently filled in the Facilities Maintenance Department by an ISA certified arborist. The tree crew systematically prunes trees through a preventive maintenance pruning program and on an as-needed basis. All campus trees are periodically inspected and evaluated for their pruning needs to determine scheduling priorities. Additionally, a work order system is in place on campus that allows constituencies to report pressing tree concerns. These requests are investigated and addressed as needed by Landscape Maintenance personnel.

Managing for Catastrophic Events

When extreme weather events warrant immediate and extensive tree removals, an outside contractor is called in to assist Landscape Maintenance staff in clean-up. A continuous order contract for Arboricultural Services is established annually through a bid process. The successful tree company must provide ISA certified arborists as well as bucket truck, crane, chipper, and other routine arborist equipment. Access for emergency personnel to all buildings is a high priority, and tree debris blocking emergency access will be the first items to be addressed, usually by Landscape Maintenance personnel as first responders. Landscape Maintenance staff address debris clean-up after a storm in order to reduce hazards on campus grounds. Following a significant storm event, the staff Tree Surgeon directs the inspection of trees for damage and hazards and prioritizes those that need storm restoration or hazard remediation within budget limitations.

Managing for Epidemic Disease Events

The University will work with the City of Macomb to create a University readiness plan in response to diseases and infestations such as the current Emerald Ash Borer and other large-scale ecological threats.

Tree Protection

Western Illinois University has many valuable and, in some cases, irreplaceable trees and plantings throughout campus. A comprehensive Tree Protection Policy has been established and is provided to all campus design professionals through Facilities Planning and Construction. This policy is included in the campus "Landscaping Guidelines." See Attachment A.

GIS Tree Inventory

As a contributing tool for tree care, a GIS campus tree inventory has been created for the Macomb campus and is updated periodically. Campus trees are plotted and describes by identifiers such as catalog number, genus, species, common name, condition, size (DBH), date planted or removed, pruning priority class, memorial tree status, and miscellaneous notes. See gis.wiu.edu/wiu_trees.

V. Goals and Targets

Goals for Western Illinois University trees include:

- Development of a Readiness Plan for anticipated threats

- Updating and improving GIS campus tree inventory and procedures

- Maintaining and/or surpassing target tree replacement plantings at a 2:1 ratio

- Facilitating flow of tree information from Facilities Management to campus constituencies

- Identifying signature trees and flagging them on the GIS campus tree inventory

- Furthering educational outreach and curricular integration

- Increasing focus on existing memorial tree programs

Communication Strategy

Currently the tree protection guidelines detailed in Attachment A are communicated to project managers for inclusion in project specifications. Upon official adoption of the Campus Tree Care Plan and its attendant policies by the Advisory Committee and with WIU Administration approval, the Plan will be placed on the web with links from the GIS tree inventory, Office of Sustainability, and Facilities Management websites.

VI. Dedicated Annual Expenditures for Campus Tree Program

Staff

WIU currently employs one full time employee (Tree Surgeon), one seasonal employee, and 1/3 of Foreperson's time totaling \$85,107.85 for the tree program. On average, \$12,500.00 is spent annually to purchase trees for planting on campus.

"We Care" Volunteer Program

"We Care" is a semi-annual volunteer beautification program hosted by Facilities Management aimed at improving campus grounds. The week-long event is held prior to Arbor Day in the spring semester and during Homecoming Week in the fall. On average over 400 volunteers participate annually planting trees, shrubs, flowers and bulbs, spreading mulch and compost,

and performing other beautification tasks on the WIU campus. At 2 hours per volunteer x \$18 per hour, this efforts equals \$14,400.00 of volunteer labor per year.

Equipment

The following equipment is used in the maintenance of campus trees:

\$5,618.00	Vermeer Tree Spade
\$22,750.00	Chipper Truck
\$25,900.00	Vermeer Chipper
\$79,500.00	Caterpillar Backhoe
\$31,800.00	Bobcat Toolcat
\$2,446.37	Chainsaws
\$5,000.00	Climbing gear
\$2032.33	Air Spade
\$175,046.70	Subtotal (Equipment Invested)
\$4,000.00	Annual Contract Labor Cost

Summary

Summary of the dollar value dedicated to the tree program at Western Illinois University are:

\$85,107.85	Labor staff/year
\$4,000.00	Labor contract/year
\$14,400.00	Labor volunteer/year
\$12,500.00	Tree purchase/year
\$10,000.00	Materials/year
\$175,046.70	Equipment Invested
TOTAL \$301,054.55	

Western Illinois University's full time student population of 10,000 x \$3 annual expenditure requirement amounts to \$30,000.00. Therefore, WIU easily exceeds the required amount of expenditure needed for Tree Campus USA participation.